

Judge denies bid to have cruelty case dropped

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BRENTWOOD — A judge has rejected a Plaistow woman's request to have animal cruelty-related charges dismissed.

Jamie Labbe, 33, faces four counts of attempted cruelty to animals for allegedly force feeding two German shepherds a variety of metal objects.

She faces up to 3½ to 7 years in state prison if convicted by a jury.

Superior Court Judge Marguerite Wageling's decision comes months after prosecutors had to abandon their initial case against Labbe.

Prosecutors dropped animal cruelty charges filed last year after another judge threw out her confession to police.

Assistant County Attorney Benjamin LeDuc argued that the latest indictments against Labbe show she “had an intent to commit a crime,” when she put a cigarette lighter and other objects near the dogs mouths.

Whether that's enough to show Labbe meant to harm the dogs should be left for a jury to decide, LeDuc wrote.

Wageling said in her decision she agreed with prosecutors' view of the indictments. The case will now be heading to trial.

Labbe force fed two of her ex-boyfriend's German shepherds with metal bolts, a cigarette lighter and metal clamps between last February and April 5, court documents say.

One of the dogs, named Pebbles, died from internal injuries, according to prosecutors. The other, named Magic, suffered serious internal injuries, prosecutors said.

Police say Labbe tortured the two dogs because she felt her then-boyfriend paid “more attention to the dogs than her,” Sandown police Cpl. John J. Sable wrote in a police affidavit.

Judge John Lewis decided prosecutors could not use Labbe's statements in October. Gleason argued that Labbe made incriminating statements to Sandown police after she repeatedly asked for a lawyer while she was being interviewed.

Labbe's boyfriend at the time, Kurt Kohn of Sandown, called police once he realized what had happened to his dogs.